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Winter 2020
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Office Hours: Wed 2-3:30 pm
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HIST 436/536
TENTH-CENTURY GERMANY: The Ottonians

This course focuses on politics and society in tenth-century Germany. This is the “Ottonian” age, so named after the dynasty of rulers who governed as kings of Germany and Roman Emperors (two Henrys and three Ottos). We will explore a variety of questions ranging from how this new dynasty emerged from the embers of the previous (the Carolingians); what the basis of their power was and whether it might properly be called a “state”; how religious institutions and ideology supported their rule; what role elite women played; and the nature of Ottonian hegemony over northern Italy and the Slavic peoples to their east.

Course Objectives:

To practice reading attentively and critically, whether of primary sources from the Middle Ages or the work of modern scholars.

To analyze primary sources texts and write logical, compelling essays that interpret them.

To gain an understanding of the tenth-century political, social, economic and religious order in Germany.

Undergraduate Course Requirements:

The readings in this course are substantial, and fairly challenging. All are either primary sources or scholarly books and articles. It is the chief requirement of this course that you do all the assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss them in class. Students will sometimes be asked to lead discussion, to summarize an article, to bring notes on specific questions, or to write a short analytical response (in class or before class). These small assignments will be crucial to evaluating student participation. Moreover, active participation constitutes a significant portion of your final grade. I will not take attendance formally, but since you cannot participate if you are not present, regular attendance in class is expected.

Writing assignments encourage students to engage closely with primary source readings. Papers should answer the assigned question on the basis of the materials assigned. (No outside research is expected.)

The grade break-down is as follows:

Class Preparation & Participation	35%
Midterm paper	30%
Final paper	35%

Graduate Course Requirements:

Graduate students will be expected to do additional readings, to meet separately to discuss them, and to write a substantive research paper (in lieu of all undergraduate writing assignments). Accordingly, the grade distribution is: 35% participation, 65% research paper. More detailed arrangements will be decided amongst the graduate students and instructor at the first class meeting. Reading knowledge of German is expected for graduate students.

Readings:

Most of the readings for this course have been posted to Blackboard. Articles marked with an * are available as PDF files through the UO library. You MUST print these out and bring them to class for our discussions. Three books are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore (and on reserve at Knight Library):

Gerd Althoff, *Otto III*, trans. Phyllis Jestice (2003)

Ottonian Germany: The Chronicon of Thietmar of Merseburg, trans. David Warner (2001)

Widukind of Corvey, *Deeds of the Saxons*, trans. Bernard and David Bachrach (2014)

A Note on Terminology:

Because the articles we're reading in this class were originally intended for scholars and specialists, they sometimes contain terminology in Latin or German unfamiliar to educated non-specialists (like you!). For German words, I encourage you to use the following translation website: <http://www.dict.cc/> A variety of Latin dictionaries are also available on-line; these are unfortunately less useful for technical terms and medieval (rather than classical) usages. Feel free to email me if a term is seriously impeding your comprehension of the reading; I'll post my answers to the whole class, because chances are you're not the only one confused. Do remember to use the web for any *English* words new to you.

SCHEDULE

Jan 6 Introduction to the Course, its Geography, and Issues in Ottonian History

Jan 8 The Late Carolingian Collapse: The Nature of the End? And of the Beginning?

Regino of Prüm, *Chronicon*, trans. Stuart Airlie, pp. 182-228 (esp. pp. 198-228)

Adalbert of Magdeburg, *Continuation of Regino* (pp. 228-41)

Timothy Reuter, "The End of Carolingian Military Expansion," pp. 251-67, in *Medieval Polities and Modern Mentalities*, ed. Janet L. Nelson (2006); OR Reuter, "The Ottonians and Carolingian Tradition," *Ibid*, pp. 268-83.

Jan 13 Henry I (919-36)

Widukind, Bk I (3-59); cf. Thietmar, Bk I (66-88)

Jan 15 Otto I (936-73)

Liudprand of Cremona, "Concerning King Otto," in *The Complete Words of Liudprand of Cremona*, trans. Paolo Squatriti, pp. 219-37.

Thietmar, Bk II (pp. 89-125)

Jan 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY

Jan 22 Otto I (cont.)

Widukind Bk II & III (61-152)

Jan 27 Creating the Ottonian State?

Karl Leyser, "Otto I and His Saxon Enemies," in *Rule and Conflict in an Early Medieval Society* (1979), pp. 9-47.

*David Bachrach, "Exercise of Royal Power in Early Medieval Europe: The Case of Otto the Great, 936-73," *Early Medieval Europe* 17 (2009): 389-419.

Jan 29 Ottonian Women

The "Older Life" of Queen Matilda, trans. Sean Gilsdorf, in *Queenship and Sanctity: The Lives of Matilda and the Epitaph of Adelheid* (2004), pp. 71-87.

Liudprand of Cremona, *Retribution*, pp. 132-8, 141-50.

Feb 3 The *Frauenfrage* (Woman question)

Karl Leyser, "The Women of the Saxon Aristocracy," in *Rule and Conflict in an Early Medieval Society* (1979), pp. 49-73.

Philippe Buc, "Italian Hussies and German Matrons: Liudprand of Cremona on Dynastic Legitimacy," *Frühmittelalterliche Studien* xxix (1995): 207-25; OR

*Conrad Leyser, "Episcopal Office in the Italy of Liudprand of Cremona, c.890-c.970," *English Historical Review* (2010) CXXV (515): 795-817.

Feb 5 Ottonian Monasteries

"Henry I to Fulda," in Boyd Hill, Jr., *Medieval Monarchy in Action: The German Empire from Henry I to Henry IV* (1972), pp. 111-13.

John W. Bernhardt, *Itinerant Kingship and Royal Monasteries in Early Medieval Germany, c.936-1075* (1993), pp. 136-69, 290-309.

Feb 10 Ottonian Bishops

"Otto I to Rather of Verona," in Hill, pp. 156-8.

*James Forse, "Bruno of Cologne and the Networking of the Episcopate in Tenth-Century Germany," *German History* 9 (1991): 263-79.

* C. Stephen Jaeger, "The Courtier Bishop in *Vitae* from the Tenth to the Twelfth Century," *Speculum* 58 (1983): 291-320; OR Timothy Reuter, "The 'Imperial Church System' of the Ottonian and Salian Rulers: A Reconsideration," in *Medieval Politics*, pp. 268-83.

Feb 12 Otto II (973-83)

Thietmar, Bk III (pp. 126-48)

MIDTERM PAPER DUE

Feb 17 Otto III (983-1002)

Thietmar, Bk IV (149-204)

Feb 19 Otto III (cont.)

Gerd Althoff, *Otto III*, Ch. 1-2 (pp. 1-71)

Feb 24 Adalbert of Prague, Missionary Christianity, and the Slavs

John Canaparius, *Life of Adalbert*

Feb 26 Otto III (cont.)

Althoff, Ch. 3-5 (pp. 72-131)

Mar 2 *Renovatio imperii* and Political Ideology

Matthew Gabriele, "Otto III, Charlemagne, and Pentecost A.D. 1000: A Reconsideration Using Diplomatic Evidence," in *The Year 1000: Religious and Social Response to the Turning of the First Millennium*, ed. Michael Frassetto (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2002), pp. 111-32.

Henry Mayr-Harting, *Ottonian Book Illumination*, pp. 156-78 OR 179-201.

Mar 4 Henry II (1002-24)

Thietmar, Book V (pp. 205-234)

Mar 9 Henry II (cont.)

Thietmar, Book VI (pp. 235-305)

Mar 11 Ottonian Society

Thietmar, Book VII (pp. 306-360)

Wednesday, Mar 18, 10:15 am **Final Paper due**